

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Immediately prior to the heading TECHNICAL FIELD on page 1 please insert the following priority claim information:

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/406,284, filed August 27, 2002.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0006] The present invention also provides a cardan joint having a plurality of support tabs for supporting bearing engagement between the centering disk and the intermediate coupling member. The support tabs can extend radially or longitudinally from the centering disk. Space defined between the support tabs can provide pockets or cavities for maintaining lubricant. The support tabs can minimize the contact area between the centering disk and the intermediate coupling member to reduce friction between the two components of the cardan joint.

Please replace paragraph [0055] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0055] Referring now to Figures 2 and 5-6, the centering disk 56 can be positioned within the sleeve 26 and be axially moveable relative to the sleeve 26, but is preferably urged to a desired position relative to the sleeve 26. The inner wall of the sleeve 26 can include a radial flange 64 that projects radially inwardly from the aperture 40, defining an engaging or stop surface 66. The surface 66 can be spaced nearer to one end 34a of the sleeve 26 than the other end 34, such that the centering disk 56 can be centrally located between the ends 34, 34a. As is common to all of the embodiments, the sleeve 26 is in the form of a tubular joint body having a generally cylindrical wall presenting a generally cylindrical inner wall surface 40 defining the opening or aperture 40 that extends longitudinally between the opposite open ends 34b, 34c. As seen in the drawings, the inner wall surface 40 is generally uniform in size between the ends 34b, 34c such that the inner wall region 40 that provides radial support to the centering disk is no greater than the size of the inner wall end regions at the open ends 34b, 34c. Referring now to Figures 20 and 23, the sleeve 26a can include a radial flange 64a defining an engaging surface 66a. Referring now to Figures 26 and 27, the sleeve 26b can include a radial flange 64b defining an engaging surface 66b.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following rewritten paragraph:

Appln. No.: 10/649,022

Amdt. dated June 28, 2004

Reply to Office action of March 26, 2004

[0056] Referring now to Figures 2 and 5-6, spaced from the radial flange 64 is a retaining clip 68 best shown in Figures 5, 6 and 11. The retainer clip 68 has a split ring configuration and is made of an elastic metal, such as high carbon steel. The retainer clip 68 has a generally C-shaped body 70 having spaced ends 72 and a narrow mid-section 74. A pair of oppositely directed retention lugs 76 extend outwardly from the body 70 in spaced relation to the ends 72 and midsection 74. The lugs 76 are received in partial retention grooves 78 formed in the inner wall of the sleeve 26 in axially spaced relation to the surface 66. The centering disk 56 can be disposed in the sleeve 26 between the surface 66 and the clip 68. The retainer clip 68 can be removably installed in the sleeve by means of an installation tool which can be extended into openings near the ends 72 of the retainer clip, and the clip 68 compressed by drawing the ends 72 toward one another which effectively decreases the outer dimension of the retainer clip 68 allowing it to be inserted into the open end of the sleeve 26 and into position adjacent the retention groove 78. Once in position, the ends 72 are released and, upon returning, the retention lugs 76 seat into the grooves 78 so as to secure the retainer clip 68 against axial movement relative to the sleeve 26. As such, the retainer clip 68 and radial flange 64 capture the centering disk 56 in the axial direction, while the surface defining the aperture 40 of the sleeve 26 can restrain the centering disk 56 in the radial direction. Removing the clip 68 enables removal of the centering disk 56.